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SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE ON "NAMIBIA BREAKTHROUGH"

REF: BOWDLER-WISNER TELCON

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NEWS ITEM BY ROBIN WRIGHT IN
WASHINGTON POST, AUGUST 10, ENTITLED "NAMIBIA BREAKTHROUGH"

1. A DRAMATIC BEHIND-THE-SCENE BREAKTHROUGH APPARENTLY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA (SOUTHWEST AFRICA).
2. DELEGATES AT THE TALKS IN WINDHOEK, THE TERRITORY'S CAPITAL, CLAIMED TODAY THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL LEAD TO:
3. --INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 1977.
4. -- A MULTIRACIAL GOVERNMENT.
5. -- AN INVITATION TO THE MILITANT SOUTH-WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION TO JOIN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. SWAPO IS ENGAGED IN GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON NORTHERN NAMIBIA FROM BASES IN NEIGHBORING ANGOLA.

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6. THE SURPRISE DEVELOPMENTS WERE LEAKED BY HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATES, WHO SAID A CRISIS HAS BEEN AVERTED BY AN ABOUT-FACE OF TWO WHITE DELEGATES AND BY NEW SUPPORT FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. DELEGATES EXPECT A FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE AUG. 24.

7. THE UNITED NATIONS HAS GIVEN SOUTH AFRICA -- WHICH ADMINISTERS THE TERRITORY IN SPITE OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL ORDERS TO LEAVE -- UNTIL AUG. 31 TO ARRANGE FREE ELECTIONS UNDER U.N. SUPERVISION. THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS GAVE SOUTH AFRICA THE TRUSTEESHIP OF NAMIBIA, A FORMER GERMAN COLONY, AFTER WORLD WAR I. IT HAS SINCE BEEN REVOKED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

8. ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSALS FALL SHORT OF INTERNATIONAL DEMANDS, MANY OBSERVERS THERE FEEL THAT THEY AT LEAST WILL DEFUSE THE U.N. THREAT OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IF THE DEADLINE IS NOT MET. SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE PLAN WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO REJECT.

9. A COLORED (MIXED-RACE) DELEGATE TO THE TALKS EXPLAINED TODAY: "WE HAVE THE GO-AHEAD FOR MULTIRACIAL GOVERNMENT FROM THE (SOUTH AFRICAN) DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MR. PIK BOTHA, SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR AT THE UNITED NATIONS" AND TO THE UNITED STATES.

10. "YOU CAN TAKE IT THAT CONSULTATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE WITH WESTERN POWERS IN A BID TO PREVENT PRECIPITATE ACTION WHEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEADLINE EXPIRES." HE SAID.

11. TODAY'S DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWED A WEEK OF BEHIND-THE-SCENES CAUCUSES AND LOBBYING BY DELEGATES, AND MEETINGS BETWEEN WHITE DELEGATES AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN PRETORIA.

12. THE JOHANNESBURG RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTED TODAY THAT DURING A WEEKEND CAUCUS, BLACK DELEGATES THREATENED TO WALK OUT IF WHITES DID NOT ACCEPT MOTIONS FOR AN INTERIM UNCLASSIFIED

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MULTIRACIAL GOVERNMENT AND A RAPID TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.

13. LAST WEEK, CONSERVATIVE WHITE REPRESENTATIVE A.H. DU PLESSIS SAID HE FAVORED TWO MORE YEARS OF TALKS BEFORE MAKING DEFINITE PROPOSALS.

14. BUT PRESSURE FROM BLACK DELEGATES AND THE SOUTH

AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS LED THE TWO WHITE CONSERVATIVES, DU PLESSIS AND EBEN VAN ZIJL, TO ALTER THEIR POSITION, THUS PREVENTING COLLAPSE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, NEGOTIATORS CLAIMED.

15. THE THIRD WHITE DELEGATE, LIBERAL DIRK MUDGE, IS WIDELY REPORTED TO BE NAMED PRIME MINISTER IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH HERERO TRIBAL CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUUNO AS HEAD OF STATE.

16. OBSERVERS HERE ALSO BELIEVE THAT U.S. INVOLVEMENT WAS A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. THE AFRIKAANS PRESS REPORTED LAST WEEK THAT, UNDER U.S. PRESSURE, THE "SCENARIO FOR DETENTE" HAD SWITCHED ITS FIRST PRIORITY FROM RHODESIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS TO NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE, MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE U.N. DEADLINE.

17. BY AGREEING WITH THE NEW PROPOSALS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD OPEN THE DOOR FOR FURTHER U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN DETENTE -- AND FURTHER SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

18. THE KEY TO INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS MAY BE THE REACTION OF SWAPO, WHOSE EXCLUSION FROM THE TALKS HAS LED MANY COUNTRIES TO DISPUTE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE YEAR-OLD EFFORT. TECHNICALLY, SWAPO HAS BEEN EXCLUDED BECAUSE DELEGATES ARE REPRESENTING THE COUNTRY'S 11 ETHNIC FACTIONS, AND SWAPO IS CONSIDERED A POLITICAL BODY.

19. SWAPO SPOKESMEN HAVE SAID THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT WILL NOT JOIN THE TALKS UNTIL SOUTH AFRICA WITHDRAWS ALL

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ITS POLICE AND ARMY UNITS, RELEASES ALL NAMIBIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS AND RECOGNIZES THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF NAMIBIA.

20. BUT THE WINDHOEK BUREAU OF THE JOHANNESBURG STAR REPORTED TONIGHT THAT U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER MAY BE ASKED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SWAPO AND THE ETHNIC DELEGATES ABOUT SWAPO'S INCLUSION AND ROLE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ROBINSON

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